



BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

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Patrick W. Turner

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April 30, 2004

The Honorable Bruce Duke
Executive Director
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an Intrastate Universal Service Fund
Docket No. 97-239-C

Dear Mr. Duke:

Enclosed for filing are an original and fifteen copies of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Motion to Hold BellSouth's Pending Request for Additional State USF Funding in Abeyance in the above-captioned matter.

By copy of this letter, I am serving all parties of record with a copy of this motion as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Turner

PWT/nml

Enclosures

cc: All Parties of Record

PC Docs # 536785

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BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-239-C

FILED
2004 APR 20 AM 10:47
SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

IN RE:

Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an)
Intrastate Universal Service Fund)
_____)

**BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S
MOTION TO HOLD BELLSOUTH'S PENDING REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL STATE USF FUNDING IN ABEYANCE**

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and the Consumer Advocate recently entered a settlement agreement ("Agreement") that, upon approval by the courts, resolves all disputes arising out of another proceeding (Docket No. 1999-178-C). The Agreement provides in part that upon court approval of the Agreement, BellSouth will withdraw its request in this docket for additional funding from the State Universal Service Fund ("State USF"). On April 22, 2004, the Commission, the Consumer Advocate, the South Carolina Cable Television Association ("SCCTA"), and BellSouth filed a joint Motion for Remand to Approve Settlement Agreement with the Supreme Court of South Carolina. The Supreme Court has not yet ruled on this Motion.

Given the likelihood that BellSouth will be withdrawing its pending request for additional State USF funding in the near future, BellSouth respectfully requests that the Commission hold BellSouth's pending request in abeyance so that the Commission, its Staff, and the parties will not be required to expend additional time and resources considering issues that are, as a practical matter, moot at this time. As clarification,

BellSouth is not requesting that any other parties' request for additional withdrawals from the State USF be held in abeyance.

BellSouth has discussed this motion with counsel for the following parties who have been active in this proceeding to date: the Commission Staff; Alltel Communications, Inc., Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc., the Consumer Advocate, Hargray Telephone Company, Inc., Home Telephone Company, Inc., Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc., ITC DeltaCom Communications, Inc., PBT Telecom, and SCCTA. Counsel for these parties have authorized BellSouth to inform the Commission that these parties have no objection to BellSouth's Motion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick W. Turner", written over a horizontal line.

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ATTORNEY FOR BELL SOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-239-C

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines)
for an Intrastate Universal Service Fund)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that the undersigned, Nyla M. Laney, is employed by the Legal Department for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and that she has caused BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Motion to Hold BellSouth's Pending Request for Additional State USF Funding in Abeyance in the foregoing matter to be served upon the persons named below this 30th day of April, 2004, by placing copies of same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

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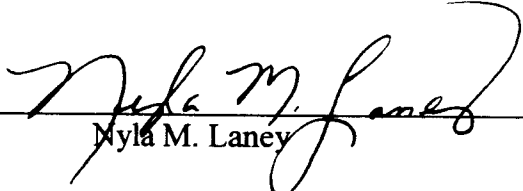
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Nyla M. Laney